

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY North Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Commodity Prices
2. Preferential Treatment of the
Military

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A report dealing with commodity prices in North Korea as of July 1958 and preferential treatment of the military and the police as to travel, food rations and the purchase of essential commodities

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I. DetailsNK General Commodity Prices and Privileged Treatment for NKPA
24 July 1958

Rate: 3

1. NK Commodity Prices1) Foodstuff:Price (Won)

Rice, per small "Mal" (approx. 9.02 liters)	500 (in autumn & winter)
Rice, per small "Mal"	800 (from March to May)
Noodle, per bowl	50 - 70
Eggs, 10	130
"Moran" cake, per box	240
Toffees, per box	340

2) Liquors:

"Soju", per two "Hop" (Approx. 0.36 liter)	180
Vodka, per two Hop	240
Ginseng liquor, per two Hop	280
Apple liquor, per two Hop	240

3) Daily Necessaries:

Matches, per pack	5
Mirror, small type	20 - 50
Comb, small type	50 - 80
Toilet soap, trademark "Swallow"	80
Toilet soap, trademark "Rose"	130
Soap-case, made of tin plate	50 - 80
Soap-case, made of celluloid, Chinese made	260
Sports shoes, for grownup, per pair	250
Sewing machine	30,000 or 40,000
Electric bulb, 40 watt	150
Electric bulb, 60 watt	200
Wrist watch, "Pobeda", Soviet-made	30,000 or 40,000
Cream, trademark "Rose"	240
Needle, per two needles	5
Cotton thread, Kakhi	130 - 160

4) Clothes & Cotton Fabrics:

Winter underwear, upper one, Chinese made for grownup	1,900
Winter underwear, upper one, NK made, for grownup	1,300
Spring underwear, upper one, NK made, for grownup	500 - 700

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Towel	300
Handkerchief	130 - 150
Socks, per pair, ordinary product	80
Socks, per pair, special product	130
Gloves, cotton, per pair	150
Shorts, cotton, for grownup	300
Swimming pants, woolen, for grownup	400
Cotton cloth, per meter	400

5) Stationeries:

Notebook, lower quality, 50 sheets per one	10, 20, 30, and 40
Notebook, middle quality, 120 sheets per one	50, 60 and 70
Notebook, best quality, 150 sheets per one	more than 150
Paper, lower quality, 36-no, per sheet	7, 8, and 10
Paper, best quality, 36-no, per sheet	15 - 20
Pencil, lower quality	5 - 20
Pencil, best quality	50
Color pencil	20
Ink, blue black, per 0.18 liter	80
Ink, powder, per bag	20

6) Cigarettes:

"Chyngsan" (production increase), per pack	20
"Taedong-mun", per pack	25
"Kalmegi" (sea gull), per pack	30
"Konsol" (construction), per pack	35
"Kangang", per pack	60
"Pyongwang", per pack	unknown
"Moran", per pack	70

7) Photographs

Photograph used for identification card, 3 sheets	50
Photograph, 3cm x 2.5 cm, three sheets	250
Photograph, 7cm x 5.5 cm, three sheets	500
Photograph, 8cm x 6.5 cm, three sheets	800

8) Instruments and Other for Use of Athletics:

Volleyball	600
Football	600 - 700
Football shoes, before 1950 per pair	900
Football shoes, in 1954	6,000
Stockings, in 1956	240

9) Various Fees:

Bus, per four kilometers	10
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Barber shop for short hair cut	30
Movie, in 1957, for general public	20
Movie, in 1957, by group consisting of more than 10 persons,	10 each
Electricity, in 1954, per electric bulb	20
Postage stamp	5 - 10
(NOTE: Of the postage stamps, 5 W on of stamp was used by NKPA.)	
Post card	10
Registered mail, in 1955	40

10) Others:

Cattle, in 1956, ordinary one	50,000 - 60,000
Cattle, in 1956, superior one	80,000 - 100,000
Tooth cased with gold, in 1956, 10-carat, per tooth	300

2. Privileged Treatment for NKPA:

- 1) Traveling: When traveling (for official purpose or furlough), officers of the NKPA can take train free in charge by bearing certificates of deferred payment issued by the name of the pertinent division commander. In addition, they can stay at a soldiers' transient quarters (NOTE: Generally, a soldiers' transient quarters was located in front of a railroad station) in a seat of city or county people's committee, without charge. However, they can take their meals at the quarters only in case of exchanging grain coupons (NOTE: The grain coupon can be furnished with 800 grams of rice per capita daily).
- 2) Purchase of Daily Necessaries: Soldiers of the NKPA can buy daily necessities other than their supplies from a designated soldiers' store. In principle, such a soldiers' store must be established one for each regimental unit, but sometime one soldiers' store may be utilized by several neighboring regiments according to the stationing conditions of the several neighboring regiments. A soldiers' store was generally located in a village, where a regiment was stationed, or on a roadside near the regiment. The Central Committee of the Consumers Cooperative managed all soldiers' stores in NK, and on the other hand, each store was directly run by discharged soldiers, who had to be ratified by the Central Committee of the Consumers Cooperative. At the soldiers' store, the commodity prices were about 20 percent cheaper than those of general public's consumers cooperative store. For instance, in May 1958, the price of an ordinary notebook at a general public's consumers cooperative store was 60 W~~on~~, while 50 W~~on~~ at the soldiers' store. However, that the commodity prices of the soldiers' store were not always 20 percent cheaper than those of general public's consumers cooperative store. Sometimes, a price of a certain commodity was 20 percent higher than general public consumers store's.

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- 3) Soldiers' Families of NKPA: Families of NKPA soldiers were given rice distribution with 400 grams per capita daily, and while, all accessory foodstuff was also supplied for the families.
- 4) Privileged Treatment for Soldiers of Civil Police: The members of the Civil Police Unit were conditioned with the same principle for traveling and purchasing daily necessities as that of the NKPA soldiers. However, the members of the Civil Police Unit were privileged with the following conditions: The grain distribution was made with 900 grams per capita daily that was 100 more grams than that of the NKPA soldiers; three suits of clothes supply annually, that was one suit more than the NKPA's; three pairs of sneakers supply annually, that was one pair more than the NKPA's; and the salaries of the Civil Police Unit members shown below were twice as much as those given to soldiers of the NKPA:
(NOTE: The following amounts enclosed with parentheses are the salaries of infantry of the NKPA).

Captain	8,000 Won	(4,000 Won)
Senior Lieutenant	7,000 "	(3,500 ")
Lieutenant	6,000 "	(3,000 ")
Junior Lieutenant	5,000 "	(2,500 ")
Master Sergeant	1,000 "	(500 ")
Senior Sergeant	800 "	(400 ")
Sergeant	600 "	(300 ")
Junior Sergeant	400 "	(200 ")
Senior Private	260 "	(130 ")
Private	160 "	(80 ")

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